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CONTENTS

<i>The Twentieth Century Engineer:</i> PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART	33
<i>Medical Education in the United States and Canada:</i> ABRAHAM FLEXNER	41
<i>Henry Augustus Torrey:</i> PROFESSOR THEODORE W. RICHARDS, GREGORY P. BAXTER, BRUCE WYMAN	50
<i>The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California</i>	51
<i>The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research</i>	51
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	51
<i>University and Educational News</i>	54
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Botanical Gardens:</i> DR. ALFRED SCHNEIDER. <i>Classification of the Edentates:</i> DR. THEO. GILL	55
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Duggar on Fungous Diseases of Plants:</i> DR. ERWIN F. SMITH. <i>The Zoology of the Indian Ocean:</i> PROFESSOR T. D. A. COCKRELL. <i>The Geography of Ferns:</i> W. T. Partridge's <i>Outline of Individual Study:</i> PROFESSOR E. A. KIRKPATRICK. <i>Kennan on Tent Life in Siberia:</i> DR. WM. H. DALL ..	56
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The Chemical Society of Washington:</i> J. A. LECLERC. <i>The Geological Society of Washington:</i> FRANÇOIS E. MATTHES	62

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THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ENGINEER¹

It is essential to develop industrialism, . . . to train men so that they shall be engineers, merchants—in short, men able to take the lead in all the various functions indispensable in a great modern civilized state.

Such was the recent utterance of a distinguished American traveler in an address at the ancient Moslem University on the banks of the Nile. It reflects the sentiment prevailing in America to-day. Mr. Roosevelt held up as it were a mirror to the Egyptians, that they might see in it the reflection of American conviction relative to education. The underlying thought is, as he expressed it, that

There has always been too great a tendency in the higher schools of learning in the west (the occident) to train men merely for literary, professional and official positions; altogether too great a tendency to act as if a literary education were the only real education.

The foundation of healthy life in the state is necessarily composed of the men who do the actual productive work of the country. Among these producers the engineer is preeminent. Without him in the complex commercial life of the present, capital would lie idle, colossal manufactures would shrink to individual industries, the development of resources would cease, the earth would no longer contribute as now to the wealth of nations, and society might eventually relapse into the relation of the feudal baron and his retainers of the middle ages.

The engineer is now more than ever before an essential factor in affairs. Engi-

¹ An address delivered at the dedication of Pasadena Hall of the Throop Polytechnic Institute, Pasadena, Cal., June 8, 1910.